

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0073

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USINT ALGIERS

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR LY XF XG XA XM

SUBJECT: QADHAFI PRESS CONFERENCE OF MAY 13, 1973

REF: FBIS NO. 131923 (MANY TAKES)

1. ADDRESSEES MAY WISH TO HAVE THE DUBIOUS PLEASURE OF READING THE FULL TEXT OF RCC CHAIRMAN QADHAFI'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF MAY 13 (REFTEL). WE ARE STILL REVIEWING IT BUT FIND IT TO BE UNINSPIRED, WITHOUT ANY MAJOR POLICY REVELATIONS AND FULL OF ANTI- AMERICAN POLEMICS. CALLED PRIMARILY TO PROVIDE QADHAFI AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM IN WHICH TO EXPRESS HIS VIEWS, WE JUDGE HE DID NOT EXPRESS THEM IN TERMS THAT ARE LIKELY TO PROVIDE HIM THE PUBLICITY ABROAD EXCEPT FROM THOSE JOURNALISTS WHO ARE ALREADY PREDISPOSED TO BE HIS APOLOGISTS.

2. A SIGNIFICANT THEME RUNNING THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE
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CONFERENCE, BUT MOST EVIDENT IN QADHAFI'S OPENING REMARKS, IS THAT THE LAR IS A BESIEGED BASTION CONSTANTLY UNDER ATTACK FROM HOSTILE FORCES. WHETHER THE ENEMY BE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, ISRAELIS FOUND EMPLOYED BY OIL COMPANIES (WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE FOR THIS, INCIDENTALLY), OR ANONYMOUS OPPONENTS OF LIBYAN/ ISLAMIC IDEOLOGY, A SIEGE MENTALITY IS VERY EVIDENT TODAY IN LIBYA. OUTSIDE THREATS ARE USED INCREASINGLY BY QADHAFI TO JUSTIFY THE POPULAR COMMITTEES, THE PROPOSED ARMING OF THE POPULACE, AND THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION GENERALLY.

3. QADHAFI REITERATED SUPPORT OF " LIBERATION MOVEMENTS", THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE, REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA, AND THE IRA. HE ALSO ATTACKED HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY (A THEME WHICH THE LOCAL PRESS HAS CARRIED SINCE QADHAFI'S CAVD DOM MEMBEY DMAOE## OF THE OAUL. NAHE BRUSHED OFF QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF MIRAGE AIRCRAFT TO EGYPT IN OTHER YUDE TERMS, I. E. NONE OF YOLZSUSINESS. REPEATEDLY HE AVOIDED SAYING MUCH ABOUT LIBYA'S DEALINGS WITH THE OIL COMPANIES OTHER THAN TO CONFIRM THEY ARE PRESENTLY UNDER A THREAT OF NATIONALIZATION UNLESS THEY AGREE TO " FULL PARTICIPATION".

4. NBC CORRESPONDENT DONALD NORTH HAS TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT MOST OF THE OBJECTIVE JOURNALISTS AT THE CONFERENCE WERE BORED AND WILL PROBABLY FILE ROUTINE STORIES ON IT. WHILE QADHAFI WAS RELAXED, MOSTLY FRANK, AND APPARENTLY SATISFIED WITH HIS PERFORMANCE, WE JUDGE THAT THE CONFERENCE DID LITTLE TO POLISH HIS IMAGE, AND THOUGH HE CHOSE TO DESCRIBE HIS CULTURAL REVOLUTION A UNIQUE EVENT, SUGGESTING IT ONLY THIRD IN IMPORTANCE IN HISTORY TO THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND THE ALGERIAN WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE. JOSIF

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